



NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH

NEWS RELEASE

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Department of Health Launches New Hepatitis Website

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Health today launched a new hepatitis website as part of National Hepatitis Awareness Month being observed in May.

Viral hepatitis is an infection of the liver caused by a virus. Hepatitis A, hepatitis B and hepatitis C are the most common types in the United States and in North Dakota. An estimated 3,200 North Dakotans are chronically infected with hepatitis B and 8,400 with hepatitis C. To date, fewer than 500 hepatitis B cases and 3,000 hepatitis C cases have been reported to the North Dakota Department of Health.

“Hepatitis B and C can cause lifelong infection and can lead to permanent liver problems, including scarring of the liver, liver cancer and even death,” said Kimberly Weis, hepatitis coordinator for the Department of Health. “Unfortunately, many North Dakotans are not aware they are infected and may unknowingly transmit the virus to others,” said Weis.

In an effort to increase awareness of viral hepatitis, the North Dakota Department of Health has launched a new website with general information about hepatitis A, B and C. The site contains prevention information for the public, support information for people currently living with chronic hepatitis and other information for health-care professionals. The website can be found at www.health.state.nd.us/disease/hepatitis.

For more information about viral hepatitis, contact Kimberly Weis, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.328.2378 or 800.472.2180.

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